

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 25-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 10-14, 16-19, 21, 22 and 26-29 are amended and new claims 30-37 are added. The presented claims have been renumbered as set forth in the Office Action. Dependent claims 36 and 37 correspond to original claims 24 and 25 whereas dependent claims 34 and 35 correspond to claims 24 and 25 in the April 17 Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants submitted formal drawings on April 7, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office acknowledge receipt of those drawings.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because Figures 1 and 2a-2b should be designated as --Prior Art--. However, the present application does not state that these Figures are prior art and the Patent Office has not provided any basis to show that these Figures are prior art. As such, applicants have not labeled Figures 1 and 2a-2b as requested in the Office Action, since there is no admission or proof that these Figures are prior art. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully reequested.

The Office Action objects to claims 16 and 29 because of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds for objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, each of claims 10 and 17 is amended to delete the first recitation of "and." Furthermore, independent claim 7 relates to an apparatus comprising a plurality of current cells. Dependent claim 10 states that the apparatus comprises at least one of digital to analog

converter, wave-shaper, controlled current source, pulse generator, a microprocessor, a computer system, a network interface device, a bus interface, and a single ended digital signal driver. Accordingly, it is clear that the apparatus including one of the features recited in dependent claim 10 may include the plurality of current cells as recited in independent claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 1-9 and 20-24 are allowable over the prior art and that claims 12-14, 19 and 28 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 15-18, 25-27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent 6,583,740 to Shofield et al. (hereafter Shofield). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 11 recites a first transistor of a current cell coupled to a common output of a plurality of current cells and the first transistor coupled to a first input of the current cell. Independent claim 11 further recites a second transistor of the current cell and a third transistor of the current cell.

Shofield does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 11. That is, the Office Action appears to assert that Shofield's transistor 14b corresponds to the claimed first transistor and that the transistor 14b is coupled to an output of a cell and to an input of a cell. However, Shofield's unit cells output along output lines 22b. Therefore, the output of a first transistor of a current cell does not correspond to node 32b, as alleged in the Office Action.

Furthermore, independent claim 11 recites a first transistor of a current cell coupled to a common output of a plurality of current cells. In Figure 5, Shofield's trim circuit 16b is coupled to the node 32b. Clearly the node 32b is not a common output of a plurality of cells. See, for example, Shofield's Figure 1 showing each unit cell 12 including a separate node 32. Accordingly, Shofield does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 11. Independent claim 11 therefore defines patentable subject matter. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and therefore define patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

Independent claim 16 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. That is, independent claim 16 recites a first transistor configured as a switching transistor, the first transistor coupled to a common output of each of the current cells and to a first input configured to receive a first signal. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Shofield does not teach or suggest these features. Claims 17-19 depend from claim 16 and therefore define patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

Furthermore, independent claim 25 recites receiving a first signal that controls a first transistor, the first transistor being coupled between an output and a second transistor, and receiving a second signal that turns ON a third transistor after the first signal turns ON the first transistor and turns OFF the third transistor before the first signal turns OFF the first transistor. Independent claim 25 further recites that the third transistor being coupled between a gate of the second transistor and a bias voltage input. The Office Action appears to suggest that the claim 25 method is inherent to the operation of Shofield. However, Shofield clearly does not

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teach or suggest these features. That is, Shofield does not teach receiving a first signal that controls a first transistor where the first transistor is coupled between an output and a second transistor. For similar reasons as set forth above, Shofield's transistor 14b is not coupled between an output and a second transistor. Furthermore, these features are not inherently provided within Shofield. Should the Patent Office maintain this rejection based on inherency, then the Patent Office is requested to show how these features are inherently provided within Shofield.

New independent claim 30 is also believed to define patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons as independent claim 1. That is, independent claim 30 recites a first transistor coupled to an output of the current cell and to a first input of the current cell, a second transistor coupled in series with the first transistor and coupled to a bias input, and a third transistor having a gate and a substrate coupled to a gate and a substrate of the second transistor, respectively, and a drain and a source coupled to a second input of the cell. Shofield does not teach or suggest these features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 and 25-37 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, David C. Oren, at the telephone number listed below.

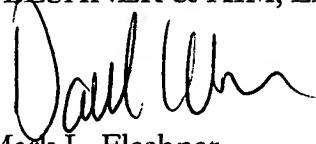
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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